

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5028

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YOJK

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0688

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN QUESTION IN THE UN

REF A STATE 22593, B. BUJUMBURA 490

1. IN THE ABSENCE FROM BURUNDI OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO DEPARTED FOR THE UNGA SEP 20, AND THE NUMBER TWO IN THE FOREIGN MINISTER, I CALLED SEP 29 ON THE CURRENT RANKING FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL, AMBASSADOR JOSEPH NTAKABANYURA, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM PARIS AND NEW CHIEF OF OVERSEAS OPERATIONS IN THE MINISTRY, TO PRESENT TALKING POINTS REFTEL A. BECAUSE BURUNDI'S SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREA IS WELL ESTABLISHED (BURUNDI WAS ONE OF THE CO-SPONSORS OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON KOREA SUBMITTED AUGUST 8 BY COMMUNIST AND NON-ALIGNED NATIONS), I ADDED ONE ADDITIONAL POINT, NAMELY, URGING BURUNDI, SINCE IT HAD NO DIRECT STAKE ITSELF IN THE MATTER, TO TAKE THE MOST OBJECTIVE VIEW, LISTEN TO ALL SIDES OF THE QUESTION, AND AT THE VERY LEAST ACKNOWLEDGE THE SOUNDNESS OF HAVING THE SOUTH KOREANS PARTICIPATE IN ANY MEETINGS REGARDING THEIR FUTURE.

2. NTAKABANYURA TOOK COPIOUS NOTES (WHICH IS RELATIVELY RARE ON THE PART OF BURUNDI OFFICIALS) AND SAID HE COULD NOT MAKE
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AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE HIMSELF BUT THAT HE WOULD PASS THE

DEMARCHE ON TO HIS SUPERIORS. INFORMALLY, HE WAS NOT ENCOURAGING, POINTING OUT THAT BURUNDI'S POSITION ON KOREA WAS ULREADY WELL KNOWN AND THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED IT TO BE A SOUND APPROACH.

3. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO HOPE OF BURUNDI'S FOLLOWING ANYTHING BUT THE STRAIGHT NORTH KOREAN POSITION. IF IT CAN BE SAID THAT BURUNDI HAS EVER HAD A DIPLOMATIC LOVE AFFAIR WITH A COUNTRY, IT IS NORTH KOREA. THE EXPRESSIONS OF MUTUAL ESTEEM ARE ALMOST DAILY IN THE BURUNDI PRESS. AND WHEN PRESFED ON THE ISSUE, BURUNDI OFFICIALS WILL ARGUE THAT IT HAS BEEN NORTH KOREA THAT HAS GIVEN AID AND COMFORT TO BURUNDI AND THAT SOUTH KOREA HAS NEVER PAID THE SLIGHTEST ATTENTION TO IT. (SEE REFTEL B).
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